**Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners (OAEP)**
**Annual General Meeting Minutes**
**February 28, 2016**
Meeting sponsored by Idexx

Executive Members in Attendance

- Julie Ballinger, Stan Henderson, Luis Arroyo, Jessica Peatling, Pat Meyers, Liz Shiland

Motion to Call Meeting to Order by Dr. Stan Henderson

Introduction of the Dean of OVC – Dr. Jeffrey Wichtel

- Dr. Wichtel discussed his background professionally, and the path that led him to the OVC
- Dr. Wichtel emphasizes that the Ontario Veterinary College has an entire new leadership from top to bottom
- A focus to bring the University of Guelph back to its roots

Motion put forth to approve the meeting minutes from AGM 2015 (last year)

- The meeting minutes were printed and distributed amongst the membership present
- Motion put forth by Pat Meyers
- Motion approved by Julie Ballinger

Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Update – Presented by Dr. Melanie Barham and Dr. Alison Moore

- Dr. Barham acknowledged Idexx for their support with OAHN
- Dr. Barham reminds us of access to OAHN updates and newsletters (available at www.oahn.ca)
- Dr. Moore solicits input on the OAHN veterinary reports (ie. length, cases studies, type of information provided)
- The membership is notified about the research project that the equine sector of OAHN has been approved for with respect to funding. The subject of the study will be "*Seroprevalence of Lyme Disease and Anaplasma in the Province of Ontario*"
- Dr. Moore informs us about the new Provincial Premises Registry
- One example of the impact of the OAHN network is the recent identification of Anaplasma in the province of Ontario, which came through a partnering lab via the OAHN network.
- Dr. Moore notified the membership about the owner report that OAHN provides to horse owners.
- Dr. Barham notified the membership about funds that are potentially available for unique cases that we may see in Ontario for private practitioners to take advantage of.

Award for significant contribution to the OAEP is presented to Dr. Jessica Peatling by Stan Henderson

Animal Welfare Committee Update – Presented by Dr. Liz Shiland

- Dr. Shiland acknowledged partner organizations which have contributed to the Animal Welfare initiatives, including OVMA, OAEP, OSPCA, Equine Guelph, OHRIA, and others
- Dr. Shiland presented the rescue facility initiative being put forth to approve rescue facilities
- Dr. Mary Bell and Dr. Liz Shiland will be presenting the initiative to the OEF Board of Directors next week to look for support and discuss whether the OEF could potentially adopt the initiative as a governing body.

- Motion to accept the Animal Welfare Report/Update is put forth by Dr. Mary Bell; motion is seconded by Dr. Luis Arroyo
- Dr. Shiland acknowledges the help and support of the other members of the Animal Welfare Committee including Dr. Heys, Dr. Ballinger, Dr. Bell and Dr. Fox

Treasurer Report – Presented by Dr. Pat Meyers

- Dr. Meyers discussed the Statement of Operations, Balance Sheet, and the Projected Budget for 2016.
- Acknowledged the decreasing membership observed over the past 2 years, and stated that efforts were being carried out to drive membership (membership drive, partnering with Sue Dyson conference); we have already appreciated increase in membership numbers relative to this time last year.
- Dr. Meyers discussed the OAEP's decision to become a member of the Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council (OLPC) in an effort to become more engaged in industry associations.
- A question was asked about whether or not the money of the OAEP bank account was invested. Dr. Meyers stated that it was not, and mentioned that he would bring this suggestion forth to the Executive Committee in 2016 for consideration.
- Motion was put forth to accept the financial statements by Dr. Dan Kenney; motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Bell

Racing Committee Meeting Update – Dr. Julie Ballinger

- Frustration is expressed about the lack of progression in the rule changes that have been proposed/put forth by the OAEP (sick list, etc.)
- Dr. Ballinger recapped on the incident where inappropriate comments were made by media in a 2015 live televised racing event where a horse broke down. This prompted the Racing Committee to approach Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) about having a vet on-call for high profile televised events
- We have been informed by ORC that they cannot proceed with many of our initiatives that have been submitted for consideration
- Dr. Mary Bell expressed concern about the changes specifically in the CPMA; Dr. Ballinger acknowledged that there is a lack of a liason between CPMA and the private practitioners, and that currently there is no solicitation of practitioner input for medication changes or other CPMA-related issues.
- Motion was put forth to accept the Racing Committee report by Dr. Keith Colquhoun; motion was seconded by Dr. Melanie Barham

Continuing Education Committee Update – Presented by Dr. Luis Arroyo

- Reviewed the CE that was presented in 2015 including associated sponsorship
- Webinars: parasitology webinar with Dr. Nielson; radiology webinar with Dr. Spike-Pierce; and liver/Tyler's disease with Dr. John Baird
- Acknowledged that the CE that has been featured has been based on the membership response of the CE survey of the membership (performed in early 2015).
- Proposes that CE in the future includes 3 webinars annually (ie. tentatively April, August, and November), 1 round table discussion on a topic of interest, and the CE component of the AGM; this would result in 4-5 CE opportunities for members for the year
- Ev post expressed that she would also be willing to share the results of the CE survey that she did following the Sue Dyson conference, with the OAEP.
- Motion to accept the Continuing Education Update was put forth by Dr. Rex Crawford; motion was seconded by Dr. Melanie Barham.

OVMA Report – Presented by Dr. Stan Henderson (for Colleen Best who could not be present)

- Dr. Henderson acknowledged the support of Dr. Best to the OAEP
- Discussed the continued support of OVMA in issues related to equine health and the racing community.

Prescribing and Dispensing Report – Dr. Stan Henderson

- Acknowledged that the prescribing and dispensing group appeared to be very focused on a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship
- There has been minimal if any consult with Dr. Hendersn as part of this group, as they appear to be more focused on food animals.

Election of Executive Members

- President-elect: motion put forth to nominate Dr. James Crawford by Dr. Ballinger; motion was seconded by Dr. Pat Meyers; all in favour; none opposed
- Secretary: motion put forth to nominate Dr. Kathy Heys by Dr. Luis Arroyo; motion was seconded by Dr. Moore; all in favour; none opposed

Honourary Member Award (Lifetime Achievement Award)

- Awarded by Dr. Laurent Viel
    - Presented to Dr. Viel by Dr. Luis Arroyo
    - Acknowledged for his active researcher throughout his career, for equine inflammatory disease/heaves, infectious respiratory outbreaks in Canada and the US, and increased understanding of equine rhinitis virus. Dr. Viel has been an author and co-author in many textbooks and pioneered the BAL procedure. He has also been an active member of various committees to promote the health and welfare of the horse.
- Awarded to Dr. Peter Physick-Sheard,
    - Presented to Dr. Physick-Sheard by Dr. Melanie Barham
    - Dr. Physick-Sheard came to Canada from England to complete a residency in internal medicine. He has been part of the OVC for a number of years, and is world renown for his work with Kim McGurrin in the development of the cardioversion procedure, as well as the study/identification of various heart pathologies in horses. Dr. Physick-Sheard has been a mentor to countless students, many of which entered equine practice because of his influence.

Distinguished Life Member (DLM) Award

- Voted upon by the membership for Dr. Mary Bell, Dr. Jim Henderson, Dr. Ken Armstrong, and Dr. Dan McMaster; all in favour; none opposed
- Award presented to Dr. Mary Bell by Dr. Melanie Barham
    - Dr. Bell was acknowledged for her involvement in the OAEP, OVMA, as an FEI delegate and steward, Equine Canada Volunteer of the Year (awarded last year), as well as involvement in the national biosecurity group, and Equine Canada national disease surveillance call. Dr. Bell was also a key driver to generate the AAEP Canadian Veterinary Listserve. She has been a mentor to many aspiring equine veterinary students.
- Award presented to Dr. Jim Henderson by Dr. Stan Henderson
    - Dr. Henderson was acknowledged for his work as the past President of the Toronto Academy of Veterinary Medicine, Halton Peel Group of Equine Practitioners, and helping devise the OAEP constitution. Dr. Henderson has had a profound influence on equine medicine in Ontario, and remains passionate about equine practice for the past 44 years.
- Award presented to Dr. Ken Armstrong

    - Acknowledged for his passion for equine veterinary practice including surgery, medicine, standing stallions, and dabbling in poultry practice. He became director of Equine Veterinary Services in 2000 after which he started Halton Equine Veterinary Practice.
- Dr. Dan McMaster
    - Acknowledged as one of the founders of OAEP. He is currently on the CPMA committee, and is often solicited for his input in matters related to regulation and veterinary medicine.

Award was presented to Dr. Stan Henderson as the outgoing President of the OAEP

Other Business

- Mike Wilson has expressed his concern with importing semen from US (New Jersey and Pennsylvania particularly), because of the logistics surrounding regulation. This regulation was introduced a few years ago due to an outbreak of CEM. Dr. Bell expressed that the USDA has not been following any mares and stallions for the past two years, so there was a request to remove the regulation. Multiple OAEP members discussed a similar recent experience out west where there was difficulty; Dr. Pat Meyers also expressed his concern over the difficulty in exporting semen into US recently (when he hadn't had very many issues in the past), emphasizing the restrictions that have come up with semen importation/exportation. Dr. Stan Henderson expressed hesitation to relax our guidelines for semen importation in Canada, if US is not testing any horses for CEM (ie. risk of importation of CEM into Canada).
- The membership was all in favour of drafting a letter of support for semen importation/exportation relations for Equine Canada to approach federal government

Other Business

- Dr. Mary Bell brought up the concern that we need someone in the CPMA to be able to approach regarding medication withdrawal and guidelines.

Motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting was put forth by Dr. Pat Meyers; motion was seconded by Dr. Julie Ballinger.